

PUBLIC

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9 April 2003

Further Information on UA 91/03 (AFR 54/018/2003, 4 April 2003) fear of torture / incommunicado detention / excessive use of force

SUDAN	Ammar Najm al-Din (m), student, Al-Nilein University] released
	Sami Yousef Ismail, education student, Kassala University]
	Hassan Ali (m), agriculture student]
	Mohamed Siddig (m), agriculture student] all from
	Omar al-Amin (m), agriculture student] Bakht El Ruda
University	Mohamed al-Mustafa Hashem (m), economics student]
	and seven other students]
	Tahir Bashiri (m), education graduate	

Ammar Najm al-Din, Sami Yousef Ismail and two other students were released without charge after being held incommunicado by the security services. They had reportedly been subjected to torture for between one and four days. The testimonies of the released students show that the students who remain in detention are still at risk of torture by security forces. Ammar Najm al-Din is also at risk of being re-arrested and tortured again.

Ammar Najm al-Din was released after 24 hours in the Security Administration Office in Kassala where he was interrogated by internal security officers about his alleged connections with the opposition group the Sudan National Alliance/Sudan Alliance Forces (SNA/SAF). He was tortured by three officers and the director of the security in Kassala, who used a hose pipe to beat him on the head, the testicles and the back until he lost consciousness. Sami Yousef Ismail was reportedly tortured in the same way. Following their release they both needed medical treatment for the injuries they sustained while being tortured. Other detained students who have been released also reported that they were tortured or ill-treated during their detention.

Amnesty International has learnt that Tahir Bashiri who was thought to have been arrested along with Ammar Najm al-Din on 30 March apparently managed to escape before being arrested. The security forces are reportedly still looking for him. There is no further information on the whereabouts of the other students named above, who are currently being held incommunicado.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Ammar Najm al-Din and Sami Yousef Ismail were tortured in detention;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing grave concern for the safety of Hassan Ali, Mohamed Siddig, Omar al-Amin and Mohamed al-Mustafa Hashem and seven other students from Bakht El Ruda University, who were all detained by the security forces and are currently being held incommunicado;
- calling on the authorities to reveal immediately the whereabouts of the detainees and to give assurances that they will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- urging the authorities to allow the detainees immediate and unrestricted access to their relatives, legal counsel and any medical aid they may need;
- calling on the authorities to either charge the detainees with a recognizably criminal offence and give them a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards or set them free immediately.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir
President of the Republic of Sudan
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: President al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771651 / 787676 / 783223 (please keep trying)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Maj-Gen Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammed Khayr
Adviser to the President on Security Affairs
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Adviser to the President on Security Affairs, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 771651 / 787676 / 783223 (please keep trying)
Salutation: Dear Major-General

Mr Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Justice, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Justice Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 774906 / 771651 / 787676 / 783223 (please keep trying)
Salutation: Dear Minister

Major General Abdul-Rahim Muhammed Hussein
Minister of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Minister of Internal Affairs, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 773046 / 770186 / 777900
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 873, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegram: Foreign Minister, Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: + 249 11 779383
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed
Advisory Council for Human Rights
PO Box 302, Khartoum, Sudan

Fax: + 249 11 779173 / 770883
Salutation: Dear Dr Yasir Sid Ahmed

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 May 2003.